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GRACE AND THE INCARNATION CHURCH  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

# GRACE AND THE INCARNATION CHURCH, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Grace and the Incarnation Church is a wooden structure with an attached brick parish house, located in a section of Philadelphia known as Venango. Since this Church submitted no Self-Study Form, there is no statement as to the condition of the buildings utilized by the congregation.

## THE CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD

The City of Philadelphia is divided into tracts for the purposes of the United States Census Bureau. Grace Church is located in Census Tract 45-I. This tract together with six contiguous tracts have been arbitrarily assigned as the parish area. The following table gives information concerning the total population of the area, the number of Episcopalians found in the area, and the parish membership of Grace and the Incarnation Church:

CENSUS TRACT	TOTAL POP.	TOTAL EPIS.	% OF POP. EPIS.	TOTAL PARISH MEMB.	% EPIS. MEMB.	% PARISH MEMB.
45-I	6,670	104	1.6	88	84.6	25.4
25-C	12,291	32	0.3	4	12.5	1.2
25-D	793	26	3.3	0	----	----
45-D	354	17	4.8	8	47.1	2.3
45-E	1,368	59	4.3	0	----	----
45-H	2,412	32	1.3	23	71.9	6.6
45-J	1,170	58	5.0	58	100.0	16.7
Total	25,058	328	1.3	181	55.2	52.2

It should be noted that Census Tract 25-C and Census Tract 45-H both have Episcopal churches and are considered part of this parish's arbitrarily assigned parish area. Conversely, in the examination of these churches, Census Tract 45-I is considered within their parish areas. Just slightly more than 50% of the total parish membership of Grace Church is found in the parish area, and about 55% of the total number of Episcopalians in the area are members of Grace and the Incarnation Church.

The following table gives information concerning the change in the population between 1950 and 1960, the percentage of the population 14 years of age and under and 65 years of age and older, and the median age for men and women in the parish area:

CENSUS Q TRACT	POPULATION		% CHANGE	% 14 & UNDER	% 65 & OVER	MED. M AGE F	
	1950	1960					
45-I	NA	6,670		24.7	11.8	35.4	37.2
25-C	14,568	12,291	-15.6	24.3	11.7	35.1	36.3
25-D	1,136	793	-30.2	21.2	13.0	39.3	39.5
45-D	NA	354		31.1	6.5	31.1	29.5
45-E	NA	1,368		26.6	10.2	35.6	35.9
45-H	NA	2,412		24.4	11.9	35.0	35.4
45-J	NA	1,170		26.7	6.8	35.3	35.8

Total 25,058

The City of Philadelphia declined by 3.3% in population between 1950 and 1960. The percentage of the population 14 years of age and under in Philadelphia was 26.5% and the percentage 65 years of age and older was 10.4%. The median age for men in Philadelphia was 32.1 years and for women 34.6 years. Except for Census Tract 45-D, the median age is above that for the arbitrarily assigned parish area. Census Tract 45-D is an exceptionally lightly populated tract, and it should be noted that this area is devoted almost entirely to commercial purposes.



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The following table gives information concerning the education of adults 25 years of age and older in the parish area:

CENSUS TRACT	ED. OF ADULTS 25 YRS. OF AGE & OVER			MEDIAN ED.
	% H.S. GRAD.	% COLL. 1-3 YRS.	% COLL. GRAD.	
45-I	10.9	2.0	2.1	8.5
25-C	13.0	2.2	2.2	8.5
25-D	7.8	3.1	2.7	8.5
45-D	7.3	3.2	NA	8.8
45-E	12.9	2.9	7.7	8.9
45-H	7.0	2.0	0.5	8.4
45-J	7.6	3.9	1.2	8.9

In the City of Philadelphia, 20% of the total population is made up of high school graduates, 5.1% have had from one to three years of college and 5.1% have had a college education. The median education for adults in Philadelphia is 9.6 years. In every tract in the arbitrarily assigned area the educational levels are lower than that for Philadelphia as a whole.

The total non-white population in the entire arbitrarily assigned parish area numbers only 116 persons, and since it is extremely negligible, no table will be offered here.

The following table gives information concerning the percentage of the population five years of age and older in 1960 that had the same residence as in 1955:

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CENSUS TRACT	RESIDENCE 1960
	SAME AS 1955 %
45-I	75.9
25-C	75.3
25-D	86.1
45-D	64.9
45-E	61.0
45-H	70.8
45-J	74.9

In the City of Philadelphia, this percentage was 60.0%. In every tract in the arbitrarily assigned parish area this percentage is considerably higher. While there is a certain decline in the total population in this area, there is a relatively low amount of residential turnover in the area.

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REPORTED MEMBERSHIP FROM MAPS

The membership maps submitted by the Local Study Group locate 344 persons in several areas in Philadelphia, Bucks County, Delaware County and Montgomery County. The highest concentration of the membership is in the immediate parish area. The table on the following page gives the complete membership distribution of the parish by census tracts.



## MEMBERSHIP DISTRIBUTION TABLE

PARISH PHILADELPHIA

# GRACE AND INCARNATION

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REPORTED MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCIAL DATA FROM JOURNALS

Between 1950 and 1960, the population of Philadelphia declined by 3.3%. During this same period, Grace and the Incarnation Church declined by 31%. The following table gives information concerning the changes in membership status for persons in Grace Church:

MEMBERSHIP STATUS	% CHANGE		
	1950-60	1955-60	1960-63
Baptized Members	-31.00	24.8	0
Communicants	-48.5	13.5	-28.0
Church school	-23.9	-19.2	-28.6

The decline in Grace and the Incarnation Church was more marked than the average for Episcopal churches in the area as shown by the following table:

MEMBERSHIP STATUS	% CHANGE		
	1950-60	1955-60	1960-63
Baptized Members	10.9	6.7	-6.4
Communicants	-18.3	-13.9	0.7
Church School	-16.1	- 9.9	-4.9

Philadelphia as a whole had membership changes of the following order:

MEMBERSHIP STATUS	% CHANGE		
	1950-60	1955-60	1960-63
Baptized Members	- 4.8	-5.7	-7.7
Communicants	-11.3	-9.0	-3.5
Church School	1.3	-3.8	-6.6



Finally, the Diocese of Pennsylvania had the following statistical picture for the same period:

MEMBERSHIP STATUS	% CHANGE		
	1950-60	1955-60	1960-63
Baptized Members	19.9	5.4	-2.1
Communicants	11.4	3.8	1.5
Church School	41.8	17.7	-3.8

There is no question that some of the decline is due to the changing nature of the area, much of which is being taken over by the Redevelopment Authority, and for new highway construction. There is reason to keep a close watch on the continued decline in this parish, and to assess properly the meaning of this decline.

Between 1961 and 1963, Grace Church and the Incarnation had 40 baptisms and 13 confirmations. The average ratio of baptisms to the communicant strength was 6.5% and the average ratio of confirmations to the communicant strength was 2.1%. The comparable ratios for Episcopal churches in the area were 4.4% and 4.5%, respectively, in the City of Philadelphia these percentages were 3.5% and 3.4%, respectively, and in the diocese as a whole the percentages were 3.9% and 4.1% respectively. It is generally considered necessary to have averages of 5% in both categories in order to maintain the level of the church's membership, and to expect continued growth the 5% must be exceeded.

Between 1961 and 1963, inclusive, the total reported expenditures for this church were \$57,391.00, of which \$9,699.00, or 16.9% of the total, went for purposes outside of the parish. The churches in this same area had a ratio of 10% while churches in Philadelphia had a ratio of 11.3%. The ratio in the Diocese of Pennsylvania as a whole was 14.2%.

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The average expenditure per communicant in Grace Church and the Incarnation was \$93.17 per year in the three-year period. Of this amount, \$15.75 per communicant went for purposes outside of the parish. The comparable figures for churches in the nearby area were \$56.22 and \$5.65 respectively, while in Episcopal churches in Philadelphia the comparable figures were \$88.66 and \$10.02, respectively. In the diocese as a whole, the expenditures per communicant were \$73.71 of which \$10.45 went for purposes outside of the parish. Grace Church and the Incarnation expends a considerably higher proportion of its income for purposes outside of the parish than the average Episcopal Church. It is unfortunate that the Church Self-Study Form does not indicate the source of the parish's income, so that a better analysis could be made of the stewardship commitment of the communicants of this church.



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# VITAL STATISTICS

PARISH GRACE + INCARNATION TOWN PHILADELPHIA  
 COUNTY PHILADELPHIA DIOCESE PENNSYLVANIA

	1940	1945	1950	1955	1960	1961	1962	1963
Baptized Members	Gr & Inc 49 209	75	467	258	322	313	327	322
Communicants	48 194	74	458	208	236	222	223	171
Church School	- 12	-	138	130	105	73	97	75
Baptisms	3 3	-	18	13	6	13	14	13
Percentage of Communicants	6.3 2.0	-	3.9	6.3	2.5	5.9	6.3	7.6
Confirmations	2 -	-	27	15	21	6	-	7
Percentage of Communicants	4.2	-	5.9	7.2	8.9	2.7	-	4.1
Parochial Expenditures 1	5,213 7,804	7,649	9,778	11,333	13,801	15,159	14,384	14,975
Special Par. Expenditures 2	1,026 -	782	2,769	1,323	1,865	1,191	1,058	925
Extra-parochial Expenditures 3	290 -	70	2,170	2,682	3,747	2,823	3,095	3,781
Total Reported Expenditures	6,529 7,804	8,501	14,717	15,338	19,413	19,173	18,537	19,681
Expenditures per Communicant	33.65 162.58	114.88	32.13	73.74	82.26	86.36	83.13	115.09
Extra-parochial Expenditures per Communicant	1.49 0.95	4.74	12.89	15.88	12.72	13.88	22.11	

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- 1 Includes clergy salary, current expense, pension premium, and Diocesan assessment.
- 2 Special parish purposes, including capital expenditures.
- 3 Includes Church's Program, special outside.



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DATA ON THE CONGREGATION

Grace and the Incarnation Church did not submit an Episcopal Census, so it is not possible to make an analysis of the composition of the congregation at the present time.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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THE CHURCH OF GRACE AND INCARNATION, Venango, Philadelphia,  
Pennsylvania

Since Grace and Incarnation Church did not submit a Church Self-Study Form, it is not possible to offer any discussion or recommendations at the present time. This is unfortunate since this church faces many problems which need careful analysis. Should the church complete its Self-Study Form at some time in the future, the General Division of Research and Field Study would be willing to process it, as time permits.